

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** An exhaust emission control system for an engine, comprising an exhaust emission control catalyst disposed in an exhaust muffler whose inside is divided into a plurality of chambers,

wherein at least a portion of the inside of the exhaust muffler is divided into:

a first chamber as one of a plurality of chambers, the first chamber for converting mainly NO_x in exhaust gas; and

a second chamber as another of the plurality of chambers, the second chamber for converting HC and CO in the exhaust gas, and ~~is provided with~~

a partition wall disposed between the first and second chambers and having a conduit for guiding the exhaust gas from the first chamber to the second chamber, and

wherein the exhaust muffler comprises:

an exhaust gas inlet for introducing the exhaust gas into the first chamber;

an external-air suction means provided in the partition wall for sucking external air into the second chamber; and

a discharge pipe for discharging the external air and the exhaust gas flowing through the second chamber.

2. **(New)** The exhaust emission control system according to Claim 1, wherein the external-air suction means comprises an external-air introduction chamber formed to surround the conduit and connected to an outside atmosphere.

3. **(New)** The exhaust emission control system according to Claim 2, wherein the external-air suction means further comprises a suction tube communicating with the external-air introduction chamber and coaxially surrounding the conduit.

4. **(New)** The exhaust emission control system according to Claim 1, wherein the partition wall comprises first and second partition plate members superposed on each other.

5. **(New)** The exhaust emission control system according to Claim 4, wherein the conduit is integrally provided on the first partition plate member.